



May 6, 1949

TRIGG OUTLINES PRICE-SUPPORT PROPOSALS: Recognition that "stability of farm income is in the national interest" is the basis for the whole price-support program which Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan has recommended to Congress, Ralph S. Trigg, Administrator of the Production and Marketing Administration, recently told a State conference of county farmer-committeemen at Richmond, Virginia.

The basic principles and authorities, Mr. Trigg said, are contained in present legislation, including the Agricultural Act of 1948. He listed the following as the basic elements of the Secretary's proposal:

1. Establish a farm-income or purchasing-power base below which it is not in the national interest to permit farm buying power to fall. Then use this as a more realistic starting point for figuring individual price supports than the old parity formula which goes back 40 years for its base.
2. Provide for extension of definite price supports to commodities not previously covered well enough - milk, meat, and other perishables which make up 75 percent of farm income, and which are most important on the consumer's table.
3. In supporting these perishable commodities, use production payments instead of buying up surpluses to support the market. This would permit market prices to go down to the point where consumers can buy more; yet, through the production payments, farmers would get fair returns.
4. There would be more definite recognition of the relationship between price supports, conservation, and orderly marketing programs. Farmers who got the benefits of price supports would also accept the responsibilities which tie all parts of a farm program together.

Producers of storable commodities would notice very little change under the Secretary's proposals, the Administrator said. Loan and other price-support operations would continue as now in effect.

ACP DIVIDENDS: Too often the cost and not the returns on the investment are considered in connection with soil and water conservation practices under the Agricultural Conservation Program, says _____, chairman of the _____ county ACP committee.

The allocation to _____ county for conservation under the 1949 ACP is \$_____, the chairman explains. The county committee has the responsibility to get the maximum amount of conservation from the use of these funds. Records indicate that more than two dollars worth of conservation is obtained for each dollar spent.

As a general policy, the chairman states, each farmer is required to put up about half the "out-of-pocket" cost of conservation practices carried out under the program. That means the farmers of _____ county will put up another \$_____ to _____.

protect the Nation's soil and water resources.

In addition, the assistance provided under the program has acted as a leaven for additional conservation. Encouraged by the assistance provided under the program, farmers often carry out additional conservation work. Many practices started under the program become established in farming systems and are continued indefinitely.

It should not be overlooked either, Mr. _____ points out, that much of the \$_____ allocated to _____ county will be used locally to purchase materials. Other practice costs which the farmers supply also enter local trade channels. It all means business on Main Street. Even more important is the stability which stems from improved land and the resulting continued production.

MAJOR DECISIONS FACING FARMERS: Current crop estimates indicate that growers of some basic commodities may be called upon to vote in marketing quota referendums as required under current laws, says J. E. Kasper, chairman of the North Dakota Production and Marketing Administration Committee. With this in prospect he points out that it is important for farmers to have in mind that farmers themselves through their elected committees administer these programs.

The chairman explains that acreage allotments on specified major crops also may be established by order of the Secretary of Agriculture. A national allotment is established and this is broken down to State and county allotments. The farmer-elected county committees then have the responsibility of setting up the allotments for each farm.

While acreage allotments may be established by order of the Secretary, marketing quotas to be put in effect must be approved by two-thirds of the farmers voting in a referendum. And if quota programs are approved, they also are administered by the local farmer-elected committees.

These same committeemen are responsible for the Agricultural Conservation Program and for activities in connection with the Government price support programs for farm commodities.

Mr. Kasper quoted from a recent statement by Ralph S. Trigg, PMA Administrator, at a State PMA Conference, indicating the place of elected committeemen in administering farm programs:

"Farmer committeemen in recent years have concentrated their efforts pretty largely on the Agricultural Conservation Program. For this reason some people have forgotten how many different things the committeemen do - how vitally important they are in the administration of the over-all farm program Personally, I am convinced that the PMA committees, as developed from the original AAA committees, are the very heart of the entire administrative machinery for farm programs. Without them, I do not see how we could do an efficient job of program administration."

AIMS OF ACP: The Agricultural Conservation Program encourages farmers to establish and maintain sound and balanced systems of farming which add to and preserve the productivity of their land, says _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee.

He points out that the assistance offered for carrying out individual conservation measures to directly benefit the soil often stimulates over-all changes in farming systems.

Often the first and basic need for conservation is a return of minerals to the soil. But this, the chairman explains, is usually the first step in a series of practices to conserve soil and water. The use of lime and phosphate under Agricultural Conservation Program specifications are good conservation practices in themselves, but their chief value is in the succession of practices which they set underway.

In the opinion of the chairman, despite the very material progress of recent years, farmers are not carrying out enough conservation work. Even the use of lime and phosphate is far below needs; considering the vast amount of soil which needs strengthening and protecting through heavier growth of grasses and clovers. These plants, he explains, need a fertile soil to grow well and thus provide the maximum protective covering and add the desired humus so essential in conservation.

WHEAT SUPPLIES CLIMB: A total wheat production of 1,310 million bushels, second only to the 1947 output of 1,367 million, may be in the farm picture for 1949. This estimate is based on a winter wheat crop forecast of 1,020 million bushels and a spring crop assumed to be equal to the 1938-47 average of 290 million bushels.

With a domestic use of about 665 million bushels - food 490, feed 100, and seed 75 -- a crop of the size estimated would provide about 650 million bushels for export in 1949-50 and for addition to the carry-over July 1, 1950.

Exports of around 450 million bushels would leave around 200 million bushels to be added to the carry-over. With old-crop stocks carried over on July 1, 1949, this would mean a carry-over July 1, 1950 of about 500 million bushels, compared with the all-time record high of 631 million in 1942 and the 1932-41 average of 235 million.

A total of 81.7 million acres of all wheat is reported seeded or expected to be seeded for 1949. This would be the largest wheat acreage on record, slightly exceeding the previous record of 80.8 million acres in 1937. Wheat acreage has been climbing steadily each year since 1942.

Always adapt our suggested news releases to fit the situation in your county eliminate those not particularly of interest to farmers in your area and add local items of interest.



May 13, 1949

LOCAL COMMITTEEMEN TO SET ALLOTMENTS: If acreage allotments and marketing quotas become necessary next year for certain crops, the individual farm allotments will be set by the local farmer-committees, according to J. E. Kasper, chairman of the North Dakota Production and Marketing Administration Committee. This is a vital point in the Nation's agricultural program, the chairman emphasizes.

He points out that when farmers are producing more of a commodity than can be marketed and ample reserves have been built up, they know that adjustments should be made. But as individual farmers they are helpless in making the necessary adjustments. Each farm has been laid out to grow particular crops. Machinery has been accumulated to grow these crops. On most farms it is not possible for the farmer to shift his entire farm from one crop to another.

Farmers are aware of this but without a farm program which provides a means for unified action there is no means for assuring desired results. Under the program the acreage that is needed to assure abundance without wasteful surpluses is divided equitably among the farmers of a community, a county and the country as a whole.

"And no one is better able to set up the individual allotments for a farm", the chairman states, "than the elected committeemen. They are farmers. They know the problems confronting their neighbors. They are elected each year. The farmers affected by the allotments they set are the ones who elect them.

"And no one can impose marketing quotas upon farmers. The law requires that two-thirds of the farmers voting in an announced referendum must approve marketing quotas before they can be put into effect."

WHY SUPPORT FARM PRICES? With all the discussion going on about supporting farm prices -- at what level? what commodities? and how? -- some people are asking, "Why support farm prices, at all? As background to these questions, _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee, makes the following observation:

1. The country's welfare is best served when there is an abundance of food. But it is impossible with the hazards of weather, disease and insects, to produce just exactly the right amount of food. To make sure there is plenty, farmers have to take chances on producing too much. But when there is too much -- without price supports -- the farmer suffers. Prices go down and often he has to produce at a loss. Price supports relieve him of the threat of bankruptcy, and the farmer is encouraged to continue to produce abundantly.

2. Farmers as separate operators of nearly 6 million farms -- each an independent production unit -- are defenseless in protecting themselves from the effects of surpluses. Price supports are needed to protect farmers from the wide fluctuations in price that result from shifts in yields and demands.

3. Price supports help to stabilize production as well as price. Extreme price fluctuations lead to extreme production shifts. Many are forced to increase production of certain commodities in a vain effort to meet fixed costs. If there is a material shift to other commodities, it only widens the distress front.

4. Price supports mean a more stable farm income. This is important, not only to the farm family, but to the businessman on Main Street. The farmer is better able to pay his bills and to buy the things which improve farm living standards. The resulting stability means more permanent tenure for the farmer and a greater stability for the community.

5. With a more stable income, the farmer has more incentive and is better able to farm for the future as well as the present. He is better able to carry out a year-after-year consistent soil and water conservation program. He isn't forced to interrupt his conservation efforts every time there are price slumps thus wiping out the progress already made by inability to keep up the work previously started.

In Mr. _____'s opinion consumers are the main beneficiaries of price supports because they result in more stable production and a greater total of continuing production at lower and more stable prices. In the long run reduced ability of the soil to produce must be reflected in higher prices to consumers.

SOIL -- MORE THAN BIN OF PLANT FOOD: Soil is more than a static storage bin of plant food and conservation of the soil is more than replacing minerals taken out in crops, says _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee.

Soil, the chairman points out, is more like something alive that has to be kept healthy and strong to keep it producing and when it gets sick it may take a long time to make it well again -- if ever.

And conservation that keeps the land well and productive is more effective than that which seeks only to cure sick land.

Mr. _____ said that each farmer should consider his farm -- the land -- with this in mind in carrying out conservation practices. The provisions of the Agricultural Conservation Program are intended to help the farmer not only correct damage from erosion but to help him build into the soil a resistance to erosion.

Soils differ and they require different treatment to protect them against erosion and depletion. In recognition of this the Agricultural Conservation Program includes a great variety of conservation practices from which farmers may select those that are most needed.

The farmer, with the help of his local committeemen, is urged to study the needs of his farm and to select those conservation practices which are best adapted to meet those needs.

Mr. _____ said that even though farmers already have signed up in the ACP for 1949 and have indicated the practices they will carry out, it is not too early to make a serious study of their farms to determine the most urgently needed practices for 1950.

And he pointed out soil is not static. Changes are going on all the time -- some to improve the soil and some to tear it down. Mineral supplies, water, humus, soil

structure, slope of the land and crops previously grown should all be considered in determining how to make the most effective use of conservation practices in building a better soil.

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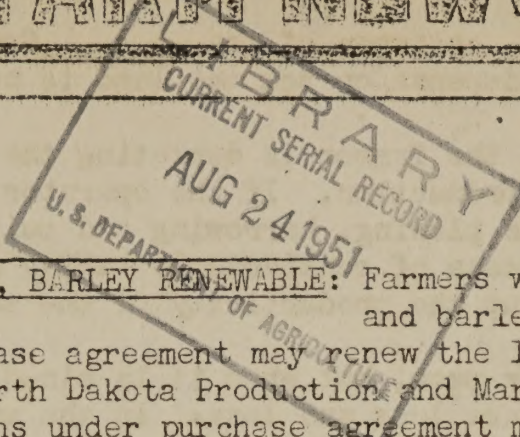
1. The first part of the report is a general statement of the purpose and scope of the study. It is followed by a brief review of the literature on the subject.

2. The second part of the report is a description of the methods used in the study.

3. The third part of the report is a presentation of the results of the study. It is followed by a discussion of the results and their implications.



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May 20, 1949

LOANS ON FARM STORED WHEAT, OATS, BARLEY RENEWABLE: Farmers with 1948 wheat, oats and barley under Commodity Credit Corporation loan or purchase agreement may renew the loan for another year, J. E. Kasper, chairman of the North Dakota Production and Marketing Administration Committee announces. These grains under purchase agreement may be put under loan.

Renewed loans will mature April 30, 1950. Arrangements for renewing loans may be made at county Agricultural Conservation Offices.

Grain under loan in public warehouses matured April 30, 1949 and is not eligible for loan renewal.

Wheat farmers taking part in the program will receive an immediate storage payment of 7 cents a bushel for the 1948-49 storage period, and from 10 to 11½ cents, depending upon the area, for the 1949-50 period on wheat delivered to the Commodity Credit Corporation at maturity of the loan.

For oats and barley no storage payments will be made for the 1948-49 storage period, but payments amounting to 8 cents a bushel for oats, and 10 cents for barley, will be made for the 1949-50 storage period on oats and barley delivered to CCC at maturity of the loans.

The program is designed to slow down the flow of loan and purchase agreement grain off the farms in excess of market requirements. It is also a part of the Department's over-all objective of encouraging farm storage of grains for orderly marketing and effective price support.

Department compilations show that farm-storage loans had been made on approximately 60 million bushels of 1948-crop wheat, 13 million bushels of oats, and 22 million bushels of barley. Quantities under purchase agreements totaled about 113 million bushels of wheat, 8½ million bushels of oats, and 18 million bushels of barley. Figures are not available as to how much of the purchase agreement wheat, oats, and barley is still on the farm.

Loans on both farm-stored and warehouse-stored 1948-crop wheat, oats, and barley became due on April 30, 1949. Today's announcement gives farmers the option of paying off the farm storage loans, delivering the grain to CCC, or renewing the loans for another year. Loans on warehouse-stored wheat, oats, and barley are not affected by today's announcement and became due on April 30, 1949.

On 1948-crop purchase agreement wheat, oats, and barley, the CCC had agreed to buy during the 30-day period immediately following the maturity date of the 1948 loans any quantity up to the maximum covered by agreements at applicable loan delivery rates. Today's announcement gives producers the option of selling this grain to CCC, of keeping it, or putting it under loan at the 1948-loan rates.

LAND - MINE OR FACTORY?: Is your farm a "mine" or a "factory?"

According to _____, chairman of the _____ County Agricultural Conservation Committee, the answer depends on how the land is being handled.

He says it's a mine if the farmer is depleting the minerals in the land -- the essential minerals to crop production. If the operator is breaking down the soil structure through continuous plowing, harrowing and cultivating the land is being treated as a mine. It's a process of continuously taking from the land without repairing, restoring or building up the productivity of the soil.

The land may be rich or poor, but when it is mined the productivity will break down and the farm will produce less and less. In the end it means ruined land.

Where the farm is treated as a factory there is a continuing effort to restore essential minerals, to keep up the humus balance and to maintain a good soil structure. Where terraces or dams are needed to keep the soil from washing away they are installed. On slopes where there is danger of sheet erosion, farming is on the contour. Cover crops and green manure are used to protect the soil and build up the organic matter. The soil is tested and carefully watched to catch signs of breaking down. Action is taken to correct troubles whenever they appear, thus maintaining the productivity of the land.

It is because the welfare of the country depends upon maintaining the production of the farms that the Agricultural Conservation Program has been provided, the chairman explains. The program assists farmers in carrying out the conservation practices needed to assure this continued production.

CHAIRMAN KASPER EXPLAINS 'ALLOTMENTS' AND 'QUOTAS': News stories about "acreage allotments" and "marketing quotas" in connection with rapidly increasing stocks of farm commodities have prompted Mr. Kasper, chairman of the State Production and Marketing Administration Committee, to try to clear up some apparent confusion in the use of the terms.

"In view of the possibility that these farm-program provisions may once more be called on to prevent disrupted market conditions," Mr. Kasper said, "farmers and others ought to be sure that they understand what is meant by 'allotments' and 'quotas.'"

"During the war, these parts of the national farm program were not used, so this confusion in the use of the two terms is not surprising. There is a very definite difference in meaning, however. The two words are not interchangeable."

An "acreage allotment," Mr. Kasper explains, means that acreage which is required to grow a crop of the size needed. A national allotment is set by the Secretary of Agriculture and then broken down by States, counties, and farms. A farmer may comply or not with his farm allotment, but if he does not he is not entitled to receive Government price supports on his crop.

A "marketing quota" for a basic crop, on the other hand, represents that supply necessary to meet all market demands for that crop and insure a safe carryover. The national quota is divided among States, counties, and farms by means of acreage allotments. A farm's quota -- usually the entire production from that farm's acreage allotment -- represents that farm's share of the national market for the particular crop. Marketings in excess of the farm quota are subject to a penalty.



May 27, 1949

PRODUCTION, CONSERVATION ONE PROBLEM, SAYS BRANNAN: One of the greatest things we can do in the cause of conservation is to prevent the wasteful use of resources in the production of surpluses, Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan recently told the National Emergency Conference on Resources at Washington, D. C.

"With the public helping to finance soil conservation, it does not make good sense to finance price supports without reference to conservation policy," the Secretary said. "One of the responsibilities of the farmer who receives the benefit of price support should be to observe a sound conservation standard in the public interest. This is one of the ways the public should expect to get its money's worth from price-support expenditures.

"Furthermore, this is fair from the farmer's standpoint, for an effective price-support system helps him maintain a level of income that permits him to conserve rather than mine the soil....

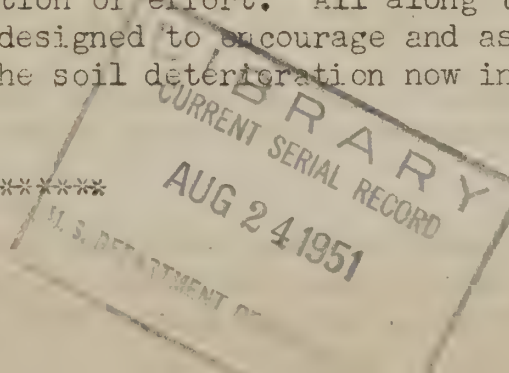
"Through our price support system we can encourage livestock production and otherwise develop a pattern of production that will naturally conserve the soil. As far as the individual farmer is concerned, there is one farming operation -- not one for production and one for conservation. His problem is to operate in such a way that he produces profitably and conserves the resources at the same time...Surpluses, low prices, farm poverty -- these are enemies of conservation."

Regarding the great scope of the conservation issue, Secretary Brannan said:

"The soundest possible Government program is not the full answer to the conservation problem. The Government may do a large amount of conservation work directly; it may also provide considerable help and encouragement; but, beyond all that, the job requires a terrific investment of hard work, sweat, and money by the individual operators of the land.....

"Soil science is a growing body of knowledge. We may learn more effective ways of treating the ulcers of the land. We may learn how to prevent them. Meanwhile we can continue to make progress without waiting for the perfect solution of the problem or the perfect measurement of the task...As practical people, we must remember this: Progress comes of going on from where we are. We can never wipe the slate clean and start over.....

"To meet some of the obvious problems, we are not so much in need of new measures as we are in need of a general intensification of effort. All along the line, we need to intensify those efforts which are designed to encourage and assist farmers, on the land they own or control, to stop the soil deterioration now in progress and restore a high state of fertility."



GRAIN RESEALING PROGRAM OFFERS STORAGE PAYMENTS: Farmers have until June 30 to decide what they want to do with their 1948 crops of wheat, oats, and barley that are under Government farm-storage loans or under purchase agreements.

According to J. E. Kasper, chairman of the State Production and Marketing Administration Committee, three options are open to such farmers. Farmers with loans may (1) pay off the farm-storage loans, (2) deliver the grain to the Government, or (3) renew the loans for another year. Farmers who covered their grains with purchase agreements may (1) sell the grain to the Government, (2) keep it, or (3) put it under loan at the 1948-loan rates.

The resealing program is intended to encourage farm storage of grains for orderly marketing and effective price support and to slow down the flow of grain from farms in excess of market requirements. To accomplish these purposes, the Department of Agriculture is offering an immediate storage payment to farmers who take part in the program.

For wheat, payments are 7 cents a bushel for the storage period just ending on the 1948 crop, and 10¢ for the additional period on wheat delivered to the Government next April 30, 1950, when the loans mature. For oats and barley, no storage payment will be made for the period just ending but payments amounting to 8 cents a bushel for oats and 10 cents for barley will be made for the 1949-50 period.

HOW LONG WILL THE LAND LAST? Are you burning down a part of your farm plant each year?

In asking this question, _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee, said he was not referring to the buildings on the farm but the farm itself. Too often too many farmers are doing what amounts to the same thing as burning down a part of the farm plant each year.

During the war and since there has been a heavy drain on the land. Growing conditions have been favorable and prices have encouraged increased production of wheat, cotton, corn and similar soil depleting crops.

This heavy cropping to meet war needs and to "cash in" on higher prices has led to continuous growing of depleting crops on the same land. This has meant year after year of plowing, harrowing, disking, and cultivating. The humus has been worked out of the soil. The healthy "popcorn ball" structure has been broken down. The soil particles are either loose, separate, fine particles and easily carried away by wind and water, or they are pressed together in "brick-like" masses. Such soil holds little moisture and is easily eroded.

On farms where this has been taking place, the chairman points out, more and more of the soil has been lost. The reserves of essential minerals have been reduced. Eventually, if not checked, the whole farm plant will be ruined and the abandoned farm will be a liability to the community and country.

A primary purpose of the Agricultural Conservation Program, the chairman points out, is to help prevent this loss and to repair the damage already done.

Always adapt our suggested news releases to fit the situation in your county, eliminate those not particularly of interest to farmers in your area, and add local items of interest.



June 3, 1949

GETTING AT THE ROOTS OF CONSERVATION: Conservation under the Agricultural Conservation Program has to do with maintaining good growing conditions for crops, says _____, Chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee.

"It recognizes the need for the farmer to make a living from the land while he is keeping soil from washing and blowing away," the chairman states. "If the only concern was to save the soil it might better be put back into forest and grass. But there are some 148 million people in this country who depend on the soil and how it is used for their food and many other essential products including clothing."

The experience of farmers and the results of studies at experiment stations indicate the following essentials for plant growth, says the chairman:

1. Space between soil particles to provide aid for the roots.
2. Room for the roots to grow.
3. Suitable soil acidity or alkalinity.
4. Adequate water.
5. Sunlight.
6. Mineral nutrients.

He listed as the minerals which may be deficient in the soil: nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. The application of lime supplies calcium but the major reason for using lime is to neutralize acidity in the soil.

Mr. _____ says that an important part of the work of the ACP is to maintain the structure of the soil in good condition for growing plants. The growing of cover crops and the plowing under of green manure help to do this. The use of grass and clover in rotation also help.

Lime, phosphate and potash are applied to replace mineral deficiencies in the soil as a means of promoting the growth of legumes and grasses.

Since sub-soil usually is lacking in essential minerals and the structure is poor for plant growth, it is important that the top-soil be protected from blowing and washing away. But it is important because it is in this top-soil that conditions are favorable for plant growth.

AGRICULTURE SUPPORTS MOST OF WORLD'S PEOPLE. Two-thirds of the world's people depend on agriculture for their livelihood, according to a recent statement by Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan. In the under-developed countries, the percentage is still higher, and most of the world's people do not have enough to eat. Wooden plows and human hands remain the basic agricultural tools in many countries.

"Obviously, agriculture must loom large in any effort to aid the under-developed areas of the world," the Secretary said. "This involves helping them increase not

only the production of the crops needed by their own people but also the commodities for export by which they acquire needed foreign exchange. In Latin America, the United States Department of Agriculture has already had more than a decade of active experience in helping other countries improve their agriculture.

ACP PRACTICES REQUIRE PRIOR APPROVAL: To be eligible for assistance under the 1949 Agricultural Conservation Program, prior approval by the county Agricultural Conservation Committee is required on all practices.

Special attention is called to the prior approval requirement by _____, Chairman of the _____ county ACP Committee, so that farmers will carry out the practices as required to qualify for program assistance.

In carrying out approved practices, the chairman states, there are certain specifications which must be met. Assistance is provided only when the conservation practices come up to definite standards.

Mr. _____ explains that the county committee, in deciding where available funds are to be used, and the farmer who accepts the assistance are both under obligation to "give value received" for the funds used for conservation. For this reason standards approved by qualified technicians are used as guides for the practices indicated.

Prior approval is one of the ways the committee has of determining the kind of conservation work the farmer intends to carry out. Then the committee is responsible for seeing that the conservation carried out meets the approved standards before the practice is certified for assistance.

The chairman states that farmers carrying out conservation practices also are required to maintain these practices. Farm operations which nullify previous conservation practices may result in deductions from current practice payments.

MORE FALL PIGS MAY BE AHEAD: The springtime hog-corn ratio this year could mean one of the largest annual pig crops on record if farmers follow the "average" response pattern of recent years, according to a report by the Department of Agriculture.

As yet, there are no means of indicating whether this response will actually occur, the report points out. Price ratios are not always true signposts to future hog production. Last year, for instance, the springtime corn-hog ratio was unfavorable for hog production because of the small 1947 corn crop, but brighter crop prospects during the summer helped increase the number of sows farrowing in the fall.

Neither is the spring hog-corn ratio a reliable guide to future profits from hog production. The ratio as of a particular time is determined mainly by other existing market forces and it can change greatly by the time hogs from the next pig crop are raised, fattened, and marketed.

Moreover, this year, changes in hog production and prices - as well as any changes in consumer demand for meat - are more likely to influence the future profits from hogs than are changes in the price of corn. This is opposite to the general rule, because corn supplies and prices usually vary from year to year more than hog production and prices. Carry-over stocks of corn this year, however, will be large

enough so that market prices could not rise greatly unless the 1949 corn crop were small.

Projecting the pattern into current figures gives these results:

In mid-March, says the Department report, the average hog-corn price ratio was 16.9, the second highest for that month in 23 years. The springtime average will probably be somewhat lower, but still favorable for hog producers.

With an average producer response to this ratio, around 5.8 million sows would farrow this fall and an average 37 million fall pigs be raised. Intentions of last December indicated a 1949 spring pig crop of 56.5 millions, which would bring the total 1949 pig crop to 93.5 million or more.

This would be almost 10 percent more than the 1948 crop, 11 percent more than the number saved in 1947, and the third largest crop on record. It would be equivalent to an annual hog slaughter in the year beginning October 1949 of 82 to 83 million head.

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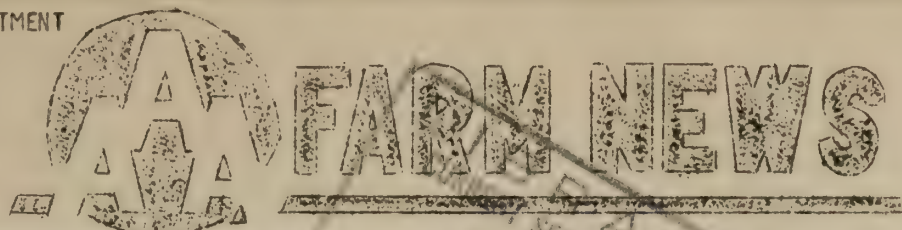
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SERIAL RECORD

June 10, 1949

WHEAT QUOTAS MAY BE AHEAD: Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan recently had this to say about the wheat situation:

If the present favorable conditions for a large 1949 wheat crop continue, the Department may be required by law to proclaim acreage allotments and possibly marketing quotas for the 1950 crop. A final decision cannot be made until after the June crop report is available, but the time is fast approaching when farmers and the Department of Agriculture must make plans for wheat production for the coming year.....

....Even if marketing quotas are not put into effect for the 1950 wheat crop, it is likely that we shall have to use wheat acreage allotments as a practical means of carrying out price support programs. Based on data presently available, our best estimates as to carryover, normal domestic consumption, exports, and a required reserve, indicate the need for a national acreage allotment which would yield a 1950 wheat crop of about a billion bushels. A comparison with the 1949 crop, now indicated at more than 1.3 billion bushels, points up the almost unavoidable conclusion that it will be necessary to bring about a substantial reduction in the wheat acreage planted for harvest in 1950.

AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION: Holding the topsoil we have and making it more productive is the objective of the Agricultural Conservation Program, says _____, Chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee. Helping farmers to heal gullies on their land and assisting them in restoring damaged land is part of the job. But more important is the not so spectacular work that is being done to keep the land from washing and blowing away.

The Agricultural Conservation Program through assistance to farmers on a share-the-cost basis is putting into operation, on a wide front, conservation practices which are building resistance to erosion into the soil.

Such practices, says the chairman, are the most economical as well as the most effective in the long run. After part of the topsoil has been washed or blown away, the cost of restoring the land is high and often there is no complete restoration after the topsoil is gone.

To illustrate, he points out that helping farmers to get a good stand of grass and clover on a piece of ground that could easily become an erosion hazard is much more economical than rebuilding the farm after it has been cut to pieces with gullies. For this reason, the chairman points out, major emphasis under the Agricultural Conservation Program is placed on prevention rather than cure.

The use of lime and phosphate to increase grasses and legumes is a simple and inexpensive safeguard and a practice that is widely used under the program.

The planting of winter cover and green manure crops is another program practice which is being increasingly stressed. In many parts of the country it is keeping

the land productive and checking the threat of erosion and depletion. Some of the practices stressed in North Dakota are stripcropping and protected summerfallow which protect the soil from wind erosion.

RAINS IMPROVE EUROPE'S CROPS: Europe still expects a total crop production below that of the favorable 1948 season but considerably above that of the drought year 1947, according to reports received by the Department of Agriculture. General rains during April and May benefited crops materially, but in some areas were too late to prevent some crop deterioration.

Total breadgrain acreage appears to have declined. Smaller potato acreage may be offset by an increase in the acreage of sugar beets. Several counties have reported some increase in the acreage planted to oilseed crops. In northern and western Europe, pastures are generally in good condition, but in other parts low rainfall has reduced pasture and hay crops.

In the Soviet Union, the condition of the wheat and rye crops was reported to be mostly good or excellent. Over 500,000 acres of tree shelterbelts were planted in the steepe and wooded-steppe regions, exceeding the goal by 11 percent.

ACP FUNDS ASSIGNED: The \$_____ allocated to _____ county for assistance to farmers of the county in carrying out soil and water conservation practices under the 1949 Agricultural Conservation Program has been assigned. _____, Chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee, explains that when farmers carry out approved conservation practices under program specifications, they will receive financial assistance in defraying the cost.

Under the Program a farmer indicates his intentions to participate in the program and lists the conservation practices he intends to carry out. The amount of assistance he may receive is figured according to specific rates for each practice. Then when all the farmers who intend to cooperate have submitted their plans to the county committee, the total amount for practices on the farm plans is added up and that total adjusted to the county allocation.

This year the total for practices as indicated by the farmers of the county is \$_____.

The county committee, Mr. _____ explains, has the responsibility of using the funds allocated to the county where it will bring the greatest returns in conservation. Approximately _____ farmers of _____ county have indicated their intentions to cooperate in the program and carry out conservation practices. This compared with _____ for the 1948 program.

Mr. _____ said that assistance to farmers under the Agricultural Conservation Program makes up about 50 percent of the out-of-pocket cost of the practice with the farmers paying the other half as well as furnishing labor.

Always adapt our suggested news releases to fit the situation in your county, eliminate those not particularly of interest to farmers in your area, and add local items of interest.



June 17, 1949

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STORAGE LOAN PROGRAM GETS UNDER WAY: Farmers in _____ county who need additional storage bins on or near their farms are urged to get in touch with the local County Agricultural Conservation Committee located at _____ for complete information on the Government's new farm storage loan program. Mr. _____, chairman of the _____ County Agricultural Conservation Committee announces that the necessary forms are available in the county office, and the program is now ready to get under way.

Under the storage-construction plan, the farmer has an alternative in either having Commodity Credit Corporation guarantee loans made by local lending agencies, or, if he does not wish to or cannot obtain credit from other sources, CCC will make the loans direct.

Mr. _____ advises that loans will cover up to 85 percent of the cost of the storage structure or 45 cents per bushel of the rated storage capacity, whichever is the smaller. Loans will be repayable on an annual installment plan, over a period of not more than 5 years. The program contains a provision for an extension of loans in instances of crop failure, etc.

The proposed structure, to be constructed or purchased, must be an eligible storage structure under the Government's price-support loan program. Storage payments earned on the structure will be applied against the construction loan. Also, proceeds from price-support loans or purchase agreements will be applied up to the amount of the annual payment.

ACP- SYMBOL OF BETTER LIVING: "We can't have more people eating food if a third of the farmers go broke every few years. We live better when farmers are producing abundantly. And farmers produce abundantly when their land and prices are protected from depletion and depression."

Addressing the elected farmer Agricultural Conservation Committeemen in Georgia recently, Alvin V. McCormack, Conservation Branch Director of the Production and Marketing Administration, emphasized the close relationship between how well farmers are able to farm and how well people are able to eat.

He pointed out that the Agricultural Conservation Program is not limited to soil and water conservation alone but to conservation of the farmer as well as the farm.

"Our problem is one of producing enough food and fiber for the 1948 million people in this country and what we can export - and to keep on doing it. To produce enough now and at the same time take care of our land so that it will produce enough when there are 170 or 180 million people in this country."

And he added, "Under the conservation phase of ACP, the country cooperates with farmers and shares the cost of carrying out conservation practices which maintain and improve the productivity of the land. Under the price support phase of the farm program, the country shares with the farmer the risk of abundance. The price

supports give the farmer the assurance that he won't go broke producing too much and allotments and marketing quotas protect the country against supporting the price on too much."

"The whole program works out to a better living for people - not just the farmers but for the people in town. It means more food and more other farm commodities - for more people."

It is when farm prices get out of balance with non-farm prices - way below parity - that the land goes to pieces, he pointed out. Then farmers haven't the money to buy fertilizers, even with government assistance. They have to mine the soil to squeeze every penny out of it to meet taxes and minimum operating expenses.

ACREAGE ADJUSTMENT FOR 1950: More protein and less starch is the food production pattern shaping up in the U. S. Department of Agriculture crop adjustment program for 1950, according to J. E. Kasper, Chairman of the North Dakota Production and Marketing Administration Committee.

He points out that with huge crops of wheat and corn in prospect for 1949 and with the warehouses filled with cotton, there is a need to shift some 30 million acres from the production of these and similar crops. If this acreage is used for the production of barley, oats or grain sorghums or commercial vegetables, it will only add to the surpluses in these crops. To avoid trouble, about the only use for most of this land is to put it into grass and legumes.

This will mean putting some of the land that was plowed out of grass back into grass. Sod was broken to meet demands of war and post-war famine conditions in Europe but now there is a need to get some of this land back into sod. More grass and legumes are needed in corn and cotton rotations.

There is a need for increased production of livestock products but the bins and cribs and warehouses are full of corn, cotton and wheat. This obviously should indicate the adjustment in farming that is needed. But to accomplish such an adjustment in an orderly and equitable manner, the chairman points out, it may be necessary to have such things as acreage allotments and marketing quotas. Then, through the Agricultural Conservation Program assistance is provided to aid farmers in making the shift from the cash - one-season-return - crops to the slower return type of livestock farming.

For this reason Mr. _____ says emphasis this year is on the harvesting of as much grass and legume seed as possible. This seed, he points out, is the key to the shift from "surplus" crops to livestock. And, since grass and legumes are among the best means of conserving soil - protecting it from erosion and building up reserves of humus and fertility for future needs - this seed is also the key to conservation. Instead of wasting the soil in producing unwanted surpluses, the land will then become a reservoir for use when added strength and fertility are needed to produce food for an expanding population.

PMA CHAIRMAN WARNS ON EROSION: The good earth is slipping from under us faster than most of us think, says J. E. Kasper, Chairman of the North Dakota Production and Marketing Administration Committee. "Unless we see a deep gully with a house balancing precariously on the edge, too often we fail to recognize the erosion that is going on - that it is taking the land from under our feet."

Muddy water is one of the best indications of erosion. The mud often is the best part of many farms, the topsoil. In high water seasons much of it goes into the ocean..

The problem is serious in many parts of the world, the chairman indicates. The Yellow River in China is called "The Yellow River" because of the yellow soil that discolors the water. It is the muddiest river in the world, carrying from its watershed more sediment than all the rivers in the United States. Poverty both of soil and people is the result and famine is the expected and not the unusual condition.

In recent years on the upper slopes of the Yellow River the soil has become too thin for sugar cane and corn. As the soil gets thinner and thinner the crops that furnish food for man give way to plants that will survive on the thinnest soils. When at last there is no soil even for these plants there is a barren waste.

That process has been going on a long time in China and for a shorter time in the United States but the chairman points out, "no nation has wasted soil and water resources faster than we have. That's why it's so important that we of the United States take warning, that we make every effort to check erosion and to conserve our soil and water resources."

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June 24, 1949

SHEET EROSION: Have you skimmed the cream off your farm?

In asking this question of the farmers of _____ county, _____, Chairman of the County Agricultural Conservation Committee, says that too often the "cream has been skimmed off" -- or rather the richest part of the soil has been washed or blown away.

Sheet erosion, the most serious kind of erosion because it takes the best part of the soil without leaving an obvious trail of evidence behind, has done much more damage than gully erosion, Mr. _____ said.

An indication of how sheet erosion destroys a farm almost without notice is seen in the old idea that rocks are "pushed up" to the surface of the land. Actually, says the chairman, instead of the rocks being "pushed up," the soil is being washed or blown away leaving the rocks exposed.

Muddy water is the best evidence of sheet erosion. Often that muddy water is the best part of the topsoil. The part that is readily carried away in the runoff from rain or melting snow, is the part that has the highest concentration of humus and essential minerals.

Single cropping and too much land in cash crops year after year breaks down the "popcorn ball" structure of the soil leaving it in condition for quick and excessive erosion. A little of the surface of the whole field may be moved off in just a few rains. Farmers are increasingly realizing that when this happens it doesn't take long to lose a good share of the life-sustaining top layer of soil.

By encouraging farmers to plant more grass and legumes and to use more fertilizers to increase the growth of grass and legumes, the Agricultural Conservation Program is helping to check sheet erosion and build the soil for continued abundant but balanced production.

GRAZING LAND MANAGEMENT: Maximum use of our range land on a sustained yield basis is the aim of the grazing land management practice under the 1949 Agricultural Conservation Program, says _____ ACP committeemen in charge of range conservation work for _____ county.

Mr. _____ said the ACP program is set up to help ranchers get more from their range land, not less. Ranchers cooperating in the program believe that it is good business to reduce the number of livestock if too much of the feed on the range goes into maintaining numbers instead of putting on weight.

The experience of ranchers is supported by experimental results which show that when numbers of livestock are brought into balance with the amount of feed, the amount of meat produced is increased, even though it may mean a reduction in numbers.

Mr. _____ explained that "balance" means using the range so that it will continue to protect the soil from erosion and continue to produce palatable and nutritious feed year after year. In many instances this means leaving 50 percent of the plant growth above the ground to go to seed and to store plant food in the roots for vigorous growth the next year.

The chairman explains that an understanding of range conditions and key species of grass makes it possible for experienced ACP committeemen and ranchers to determine a fair balance of stocking - the number of cattle or sheep that should be allowed to graze on a given area of range land for a given time.

Reseeding of range grasses, development of water holes for livestock, deferred grazing and other practices of the Agricultural Conservation Program all fit into the range improving and range maintaining effort, the chairman explains. Important by-products are the protection of watersheds, increasing water supplies and checking flood damage.

URGES GRASS IN PLACE OF SURPLUSES: Instead of piling up wasteful surpluses in cribs, bins, cellars, or warehouses, why not store them in the soil? The question is asked by _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee, who points out that crop reports now indicate that when the crops are harvested this fall there may be actual surpluses in a number of major crops.

And in most cases, the chairman said, there is no relief in turning to some other cash crop. Almost without exception a few acres shift by many farmers will result in surpluses of the other crops.

As the chairman explains, most farmers can't afford and it is not in the national interest to leave the land idle since it grows up to weeds and becomes a menace to the rest of the farm land. About the only alternative is to seed the land to adapted grasses and legumes, thus building up the soil for future production. And the grass that holds the soil and builds up humus, at the same time can furnish feed for the livestock and livestock products which are still needed.

Mr. _____ makes these observations in urging farmers to consider carefully the problems which may make adjustments necessary to keep agriculture "on an even keel." Too often, he explains, lower prices result in increased production of crops already in surplus in the effort to meet fixed costs. It results in a vicious circle of increased surpluses, lower prices and reduced income until the farmer is finally forced out. Production in line with consumer needs should be the goal instead of using up soil fertility, seed, fertilizers, labor and equipment to turn out excess food and fiber.

Through the Agricultural Conservation Program, the chairman explains, farmers may obtain assistance in seeding grasses and legumes and in obtaining phosphate to improve growing conditions for these conserving crops.

NEAR RECORD WHEAT CROP IN PROSPECT: The Nation's wheat farmers are expected to pour nearly 1,337 million bushels of wheat into the world breadbasket when harvesting of the 1949 crop is completed this fall.

This second largest total production in history - only 2 percent below the record

1947 crop - is forecast by the U. S. Department of Agriculture on the basis of conditions June 1. This is 15 million bushels more than estimated on May 1.

The increase is largely due to improved prospects in Nebraska, South Dakota, Iowa, Illinois, New York, Colorado, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah and Oregon.

Winter wheat production, now indicated at 1,037 million bushels, is being grown on a record acreage, but is 3 percent below the record crop of 1947. It compares with the 1948 crop of 991 million bushels and the 1937-47 average of 726 million bushels.

More than 300 million bushels of spring wheat are in prospect as of June 1. Although only slightly more than the 1948 crop, this total exceeds the average by 13 percent.

Harvest has started on the relatively small barley acreage. Yields are satisfactory so far, and promising in the spring-sown area, indicating a total of 283 million bushels. Oats production from the larger than average acreage promises to approach 1.5 billion bushels. Rye will be harvested from the smallest acreage, except that of 1946, in 75 years, with an expected production of only 22 million bushels.

Hay yields are slightly above average and cutting of 101 million tons is indicated. Pastures are reported in well above average condition and uniformly good except in some dry areas in Florida, Montana and California.

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1947 crop - is forecast by the U. S. Department of Agriculture to be 1.1 billion bushels, or 1.1 billion bushels more than estimated in 1946.

The increase is largely due to improved prospects in Nebraska, South Dakota, Iowa, Illinois, New York, Minnesota, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah and Oregon.

With the production now forecast at 1.1 billion bushels, it means that a record average, that is 5 percent below the record crop of 1947, is expected with the 1948 crop of 991 million bushels and the 1950-51 average of 1.2 billion bushels.

More than 300 million bushels of spring wheat are at present as of June 15. Although only slightly more than the 1948 crop, this total exceeds the average by 15 percent.

Harvest has started on the relatively small barley crop. Yields are satisfactory so far, and promising in the spring-sown areas, indicating a total of 250 million bushels. Other production from the larger than average winter wheat to approach 1.2 billion bushels. Few will be harvested from the earliest average, except that at 100, in 35 years, and an expected production of only 25 million bushels.

My wheat and barley show average and certain of 101 million bushels in total. Winter wheat is reported to well above average conditions and uniformly good except in some dry areas in Arizona, Nevada and California.

Always keep our suggested news release in all the situation in your country. Write to those for the publicity of interest to farmers in your area, and and your news of interest.